

Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update

May 20, 2010

IN THIS UPDATE:

(click on the title below to go to a section)

HEALTH REFORM

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

INFLUENZA UPDATE:

WHAT'S NEW WITH FLU?, ONGOING FLU ISSUES

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SIGNUP

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROTAVIRUS VACCINES

MAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

OTHER UPDATES:

ANIMAL RABIES UPDATE, BROWNTAIL MOTH CATERPILLAR INFESTATION, CHILDHOOD OBESITY REPORT, PATIENT HANDOUTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAININGS:

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS, INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONFERENCE

STAY UPDATED

HEALTH REFORM

This Health Reform Implementation Brief describes the Prevention and Public Health Fund:

<http://healthreformgps.org/resources/prevention-and-public-health-fund/>

The Internal Revenue Service has released guidance on the health reform law's health care tax credit for small businesses. More information is available here: <http://healthreformgps.org/resources/irs-releases-guidance-on-small-business-tax-credit/>

The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems has developed this simple [tool](#) to help determine what health reform means to an individual, based on insurance status and age.

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) is a partnership among six national public health organizations with the goal of improving the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems. Stakeholders from a variety of agencies in the public and private sectors came together at the Augusta Civic Center on May 13 for a day-long assessment of the public health system in Maine. The assessment was based on the ten Essential Public Health Services and will be a helpful guide in improving the state's public health infrastructure. The report out meeting will be held from **9 a.m. to noon June 17 at the Augusta Civic Center**. More information on the NPHPSP process and tools is available at: www.astho.org/Programs/Accreditation-and-Performance/National-Public-Health-Performance-Standards/

INFLUENZA UPDATE

What's New with Flu?

Flu Activity. Flu activity decreased nationally last week. Read the full national report [here](#). There was no reported influenza activity in Maine last week. Maine's weekly influenza surveillance report can be found [here](#).

School-based Vaccine Clinics. Maine CDC's school-based vaccine clinics web page (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/schools/index.shtml>) has been updated to include a [letter](#) to school nurses and [instructions](#) for completing the Maine Immunization Program's Provider Agreement for schools.

The web page also includes an [order form](#) for some of the equipment and supplies schools may need to hold vaccine clinics in the fall, which will be provided by Maine CDC at no charge. Any school that intends to hold a flu vaccine clinic in the fall may now place an order for a small vaccine refrigerator (34" high, 23 7/8" wide, 24 3/8" deep); a cold chain transportation and storage kit, which will include a cooler, ice packs, and related items required to maintain the temperature of the vaccine when transporting it between locations and during clinics; and a vaccine clinic go-kit, which includes the medical and administrative supplies necessary to hold a vaccine clinic.

Health care providers working with schools to store and administer vaccine are also eligible to place an order for these items.

Once received, Maine CDC is not responsible for maintaining the refrigerator. Please contact the manufacturer with any problems, particularly during the one-year warranty period. Refrigerators this size can store more than 1,000 doses of vaccine for school-based clinics. Thermometers, and information related to vaccine storage, will be shipped separately.

A representative from Maine CDC will call to confirm orders prior to shipment. This order process is not the vaccine order. Vaccine order forms will be sent to all providers who have been assigned four-digit PINs by the Maine Immunization Program. Completed order forms should be sent to William.Jenkins@maine.gov or faxed to 287-4612 by **Tuesday, May 25**.

Ongoing Flu Issues:

State-Supplied Flu Vaccine Populations. Influenza vaccine is recommended for **all** people for the 2010-2011 season. Although Maine CDC does not and never has provided the majority of seasonal flu vaccine in Maine, we released a list of populations that would be eligible for state-supplied vaccine at the end of March for preliminary planning purposes. The list has since been refined and clarified. **Following is the current list:**

- all Maine children ages 6 months to 18 years-old;
- employees of schools that are providing onsite vaccine clinics on school days;
- pregnant women and their partners;
- nursing home employees and residents;
- adults who are uninsured or underinsured; and
- patients of tribal health centers or municipal health departments.

These populations were selected based on several factors, including: populations designated by some of the vaccine funding sources available (federal funding sources for flu vaccine for some children); populations without other easy access to vaccine (homeless shelter residents, people without insurance); and people who are at high risk for severe complications (pregnant women, nursing home residents). Seniors and health care workers are in high priority groups for vaccine, but generally have existing access to flu vaccine that is not dependent on state dollars. Providers may also purchase privately supplied vaccine for any and all patients.

Those who receive state-supplied vaccine may bill insurance for an administration fee or request donations from patients. Patients may not be charged an out-of-pocket fee for state-supplied vaccine.

Please note that, as in years past, the only state-supplied vaccine available for health care workers is for those who work in nursing homes. However, we strongly encourage all health care personnel, including EMS, to be vaccinated.

Anyone wishing to provide state-supplied flu vaccine in the fall must be a registered Maine Immunization Program (MIP) provider by completing and submitting [the 2010 Provider Agreement form](#). Vaccine order forms will be sent to all registered providers by the middle of May. More detailed instructions, including a timeline for fall flu vaccine campaign activities, are available in this [Health Alert](#).

H1N1 Vaccine Administration Reporting. H1N1 vaccine providers no longer need to report dose administration to Maine CDC. Thank you to all providers who completed their weekly dosage reports.

Disposing of Unused/Expired Vaccine. US CDC is developing a national plan for collecting and disposing of expired vaccine. A letter explaining the details of this plan is expected in mid- to late-May. All registered H1N1 providers will receive a blast fax from the Maine Immunization Program as soon as the details from US CDC are available. Providers who were not registered to receive H1N1 vaccine directly should contact the provider who redistributed vaccine to them for this information.

US CDC issued this [Q&A](#) on 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine with long-dated expirations.

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SIGNUP

Public health officials, health care providers, and those who work in related fields are encouraged to become members of the Maine Health Alert Network (HAN). To do so, fill out the online [HAN Enrollment Request Form](#).

Members of the general public who would like to receive health-related messages are encouraged to subscribe to our Health Alert Network [RSS feed](#).

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROTAVIRUS VACCINES

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has revised its recommendations for rotavirus vaccines and has determined that it is appropriate for clinicians and health care professionals to resume the use of Rotarix and to continue the use of RotaTeq.

In March, FDA recommended temporary suspension of Rotarix after learning that DNA material from porcine circovirus type 1 (PCV1) was present in the vaccine.

The agency reached its decision to recommend resumed use of Rotarix based on a careful evaluation of information from laboratory results from the manufacturers and the FDA's own laboratories, a thorough review of the scientific literature, and input from scientific and public health experts.

Rotavirus vaccines are given by mouth to young infants to prevent rotavirus disease, which can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration. Rotavirus disease causes the deaths of more than 500,000 infants around the world each year, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. Before the introduction of vaccination, the disease caused more than 50,000 hospitalizations and several dozen deaths in the United States each year.

More information for parents and caregivers:

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm205547.htm>

More information for health care providers:

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm205548.htm>

MAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

- **Arthritis Awareness Month.** Arthritis affects 1 in 5 adults and is the most common cause of disability in the United States. [New research](#) shows that the odds of having arthritis and associated limitations vary by race/ethnicity.
- **Asthma Awareness Month.** Asthma is the most common long-term disease of children. [Learn more about controlling your asthma.](#)
- **Healthy Vision Month.** designed to elevate vision as a health priority for the nation.
- **15th Annual Hepatitis Awareness Month.** [Viral hepatitis](#) is the most common blood-borne infection in the US. Check out these new online training resources: <http://www.knowhepatitis.org/training/center/>
- **High Blood Pressure Education Month.** [People older than 18 should have their blood pressure checked at least once every two years.](#)
- **Lyme Disease Awareness Month.** Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in Maine and the second most commonly reported reportable infectious disease in Maine. Ticks are already active, and we expect the number of Lyme disease cases to increase as the weather continues to get warmer. This [Health Alert](#) for clinicians has important information on reporting requirements and treatment for Lyme disease. Follow this link for more information on [Lyme disease in Maine.](#)
- **Stroke Awareness Month.** To help increase the number of stroke victims who receive timely treatment, Maine CDC's [Cardiovascular Health Program](#) is working with several statewide partners, including the Maine Affiliate of the American Stroke Association, to raise awareness of [stroke symptoms](#) and to help improve health care for stroke patients.

OTHER UPDATES

- **Animal Rabies Update.** Maine CDC provides a quarterly update on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. The [first quarter update](#) may be used as an educational tool to increase the understanding of pet owners and other members of the public regarding the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.
- **Browntail Moth Caterpillar Infestation.** The Maine Forest Service issued an [alert](#) about a widespread infestation of a caterpillar that is toxic to humans. Browntail Moth Caterpillars have toxic microscopic hairs which can cause a rash or respiratory distress in humans. Precautions are listed here: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/btmprecautions08.htm>
- **Childhood Obesity Report.** The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity has issued its Report to the President, an interagency plan that details a coordinated strategy, identifies key benchmarks, and outlines an action plan to end the problem of childhood obesity within a generation: http://www.letsmove.gov/taskforce_childhoodobesityrpt.html
- **Patient Handouts.** MedlinePlus, a service of the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, now features patient handouts for a variety of topics on its website: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics.html>

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

- ***Partners for Progress***, an Emergency Preparedness Conference for Water and Wastewater Systems in Western Maine, will be held **from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 25 at Norway Town Hall**, 19 Danforth Street, Oxford. The conference is sponsored by the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program. Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems will gather to hear presentations on cutting edge topics such as how water systems can better prepare for more severe weather events; simila
- ***Infectious Disease Conference***. Since 1983, Maine CDC's Division of Infectious Disease has organized an annual infectious disease conference targeting public health issues of emerging concern. This year's conference will be held from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m. November 9 at the Augusta Civic Center**. Health care practitioners, laboratorians, and public health partners are invited to receive current information on surveillance, clinical management and diagnosis, and disease control interventions. The conference will feature cases of interest, epidemiology presentations, and clinical updates. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

STAY UPDATED

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
 - Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MaineCDC>)
 - Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
 - MySpace (www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth)
 - Maine CDC's Blog (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance**, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- **For general questions on flu**, call 2-1-1 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week or e-mail flu.questions@maine.gov